

IN THE CLAIMS

Please amend the claims as follows:

1. (Currently Amended) An image generation apparatus, comprising:
~~one or more detectors operable to obtain readings of external conditions;~~
~~a status determination unit operable to determine a current status on the basis of readings received from said detectors;~~
a receiver operable to receive image data;
a selector operable to select one or more portions in an image as portions of an image which are to be emphasised ~~wherein said selector is operable to receive status data from said status determination unit and select areas to be emphasised based on received status data;~~ and
an image processing unit operable to process image data received by said receiver to generate ~~sequence of~~ a composite ~~images~~ image in which the portions of said composite image corresponding to said portions to be emphasised selected by said selector correspond to said portions of the image defined by data received by said receiver and in which other portions of said composite image correspond to the other portions of the image defined by said data received by said receiver to which a blurring function has been applied.
2. (Original) An image generation apparatus in accordance with claim 1 wherein said image processing unit comprises:
a blurring engine operable to generate a blurred image corresponding to an image received by said receiver; and
a composite image generator operable to generate composite images comprising portions of images selected from images defined by image data received by said receiver and portions of images generated by said blurring engine on the basis of selections of portions of an image to be emphasised made by said selector.
3. (Original) An image generation apparatus in accordance with claim 2 wherein said blurring engine is operable to generate blurred images corresponding to images received by said receiver by deriving pixel values for pixels in a blurred image corresponding to pixels in said image

defined by received image data by calculating a weighted average of received image data weighted by a function dependent upon the distance between a pixel in an image for which pixel data is being generated and a corresponding pixel in said image being utilised to calculate said weighted average.

4. (Cancelled)

5. (Original) An image generation apparatus in accordance with claim 1 wherein said image processing unit is operable to generate a composite image by determining pixel data for areas of an image selected by selector as portions of an image to be emphasised by copying image data for said pixels from image data received by said receiver and to determine pixel data for the remaining portions of a composite image by calculating for pixels in said remaining portions of a composite image a weighted average of received image data weighted by a function dependent upon the distance between a pixel in an image for which pixel data is being generated and a corresponding pixel in said image being utilised to calculate said weighted average.

6. (Original) An image generation apparatus in accordance with claim 5 wherein said function dependent upon distance comprises a Gaussian function.

7. (Original) An image generation apparatus in accordance with claim 5 wherein said image processing unit comprises:

a data store storing function data defining a plurality of functions operable to derive composite image data from image data received by said receiver in which some portions of a composite image correspond to said portions of the image defined by data received by said receiver and in which other portions of said composite image correspond to the other portions of the image defined by said data received by said receiver to which a blurring function has been applied;

a selection unit operable to select function data defining a function from said data store on the basis of the one or more areas selected as portions of an image to be emphasised by said selector; and

a processing unit operable to generate a composite image utilising image data received by said receiver and function data selected by said selection unit.

8. (Original) An image generation apparatus in accordance with claim 7 wherein said selector is responsive to receipt of status data identifying a default status to cause said selector to identify the entirety of an image as being the portion of an image to be emphasised.

9. (Original) An image generation apparatus in accordance with claim 7 further comprising:
a display generation unit operable to generate image data defining an image identifying at least one reading obtained by said one or more detectors and to pass generated images to said receiver.

10. (Original) An image generation apparatus in accordance with claim 1 wherein said image processing unit is operable to process image data received by said receiver to generate a composite image in which portions of the image defined by data received by said receiver which do not correspond to portions to be emphasised selected by said selector correspond to said portions of the image defined by said data received by said receiver to which a number of different blurring functions have been applied.

11. (Original) An image generation apparatus in accordance with claim 10 wherein said selector is operable to associate portions of said image with data indicative of a level of importance wherein said image processing unit is operable to generate a composite image in which portions of a composite image associated with decreasing levels of importance appear to be increasingly blurred.

12 – 37. (Cancelled)

38. (New) An image generation apparatus in accordance with claim 1 further comprising:
one or more detectors operable to obtain readings of external conditions; and
a status determination unit operable to determine a current status on the basis of readings

received from said detectors;

wherein said selector is operable to receive status data from said status determination unit and select areas to be emphasised based on received status data.

39. (New) An image generation method, comprising:

receiving image data;

identifying one or more portions in an image as portions of an image which are to be emphasised; and

processing received image data to generate a sequence of composite images in which the portions of said composite image corresponding to said portions to be emphasised identified by received selection data correspond to said portions of the image defined by received image data and in which other portions of said composite image correspond to the other portions of the image defined by said received image data to which a blurring function has been applied.

40. (New) A non-transient computer readable medium storing computer implementable instructions for causing a programmable computer to:

receive image data;

identify one or more portions in an image as portions of an image which are to be emphasised; and

process received image data to generate a sequence of composite images in which the portions of said composite image corresponding to said portions to be emphasised identified by received selection data correspond to said portions of the image defined by received image data and in which other portions of said composite image correspond to the other portions of the image defined by said received image data to which a blurring function has been applied.

41. (New) An image generation apparatus, comprising:

a receiver operable to receive image data;

a selector operable to select one or more portions in an image as portions of an image which are to be emphasised; and

an image processing unit operable to process image data received by said receiver to

generate a composite image in which the portions of said composite image corresponding to said portions to be emphasised selected by said selector correspond to said portions of the image defined by data received by said receiver outlined by a border of a defined colour and in which other portions of said composite image correspond to the other portions of the image defined by said data received by said receiver to which a blurring function has been applied.

42. (New) An image generation apparatus in accordance with claim 41 wherein said image processing unit comprises:

a blurring engine operable to generate a blurred image corresponding to an image received by said receiver; and

a composite image generator operable to generate composite images comprising portions of images selected from images defined by image data received by said receiver and portions of images generated by said blurring engine on the basis of selections of portions of an image to be emphasised made by said selector.

43. (New) An image generation apparatus in accordance with claim 42 wherein said blurring engine is operable to generate blurred images corresponding to images received by said receiver by deriving pixel values for pixels in a blurred image corresponding to pixels in said image defined by received image data by calculating a weighted average of received image data weighted by a function dependent upon the distance between a pixel in an image for which pixel data is being generated and a corresponding pixel in said image being utilised to calculate said weighted average.

44. (New) An image generation apparatus in accordance with claim 41, wherein said image processing unit is operable to generate a composite image by determining pixel data for areas of an image selected by selector as portions of an image to be emphasised by copying image data for said pixels from image data received by said receiver and to determine pixel data for the remaining portions of a composite image by calculating for pixels in said remaining portions of a composite image a weighted average of received image data weighted by a function dependent upon the distance between a pixel in an image for which pixel data is being generated and a

corresponding pixel in said image being utilised to calculate said weighted average.

45. (New) An image generation apparatus in accordance with claim 44, wherein said function dependent upon distance comprises a Gaussian function.

46. (New) An image generation apparatus in accordance with claim 44, wherein said image processing unit comprises:

- a data store storing function data defining a plurality of functions operable to derive composite image data from image data received by said receiver in which some portions of a composite image correspond to said portions of the image defined by data received by said receiver and in which other portions of said composite image correspond to the other portions of the image defined by said data received by said receiver to which a blurring function has been applied;

- a selection unit operable to select function data defining a function from said data store on the basis of the one or more areas selected as portions of an image to be emphasised by said selector; and

- a processing unit operable to generate a composite image utilising image data received by said receiver and function data selected by said selection unit.

47. (New) An image generation apparatus in accordance with claim 46, wherein said selector is responsive to receipt of status data identifying a default status to cause said selector to identify the entirety of an image as being the portion of an image to be emphasised.

48. (New) An image generation apparatus in accordance with claim 47, further comprising:

- a display generation unit operable to generate image data defining an image identifying at least one reading obtained by said one or more detectors and to pass generated images to said receiver.

49. (New) An image generation apparatus in accordance with claim 41, wherein said image processing unit is operable to process image data received by said receiver to generate a

composite image in which portions of the image defined by data received by said receiver which do not correspond to portions to be emphasised selected by said selector correspond to said portions of the image defined by said data received by said receiver to which a number of different blurring functions have been applied.

50. (New) An image generation apparatus in accordance with claim 49, wherein said selector is operable to associate portions of said image with data indicative of a level of importance wherein said image processing unit is operable to generate a composite image in which portions of a composite image associated with decreasing levels of importance appear to be increasingly blurred.

51. (New) An image generation apparatus in accordance with claim 41, further comprising:
one or more detectors operable to obtain readings of external conditions; and
a status determination unit operable to determine a current status on the basis of readings received from said detectors;
wherein said selector is operable to receive status data from said status determination unit and select areas to be emphasised based on received status data.

52. (New) An image generation method, comprising:
receiving image data;
identifying one or more portions in an image as portions of an image which are to be emphasised; and
processing received image data to generate a composite image in which the portions of said composite image corresponding to said portions to be emphasised correspond to said portions of the image defined by received image data outlined by a border of a defined colour and in which other portions of said composite image correspond to the other portions of the image defined by said received data to which a blurring function has been applied.

53. (New) A non transient computer readable medium storing computer implementable instructions for causing a programmable computer to:

receive image data;

identify one or more portions in an image as portions of an image which are to be emphasised;

process received image data to generate a composite image in which the portions of said composite image corresponding to said portions to be emphasised correspond to said portions of the image defined by received image data outlined by a border of a defined colour and in which other portions of said composite image correspond to the other portions of the image defined by said received data to which a blurring function has been applied.